



President Ndayishimiye returns home after a successful diplomatic visit to Nice



The President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, returned to the country on June 11, 2025, after a remarkable participation in the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Oceans in Nice, France. This conference was an opportunity for the Burundian Head of State to represent Africa in his capacity as First Vice-President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

President Ndayishimiye also held bilateral talks with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron. The two Heads of State pledged to strengthen the partnership between their countries, notably in the fields of education, youth,

energy and sports. They also discussed the security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, appreciating international and regional efforts to support it in restoring peace and security.

The French President, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, particularly congratulated the Burundian President, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, on Burundi's concrete commitment to the Democratic Republic of Congo, notably through the presence of Burundian military personnel under a bilateral military cooperation agreement, and the warm welcome extended to Congolese refugees.

On the sidelines of the conference,

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Burundi signed an agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Albert Shingiro, represented Burundi at the signing of this agreement.

President Ndayishimiye also took part in a summit entitled "Africa for the Oceans", organized jointly by France and the Kingdom of Morocco. This occasion enabled African states to reaffirm their position in favor of protecting the oceans, and demonstrating their soli-

arity with landlocked countries.

The President of Burundi seized the opportunity to underline the importance of access to the sea for landlocked countries like Burundi, and called for the construction of major infrastructures to facilitate trade and regional integration.

The participation of Burundi's Number One at these international events demonstrates Burundi's growing respect and influence on the international stage, which is a source of pride for the Burundian people. **(Presidency)**

President Evariste Ndayishimiye brings Africa's voice to the United Nations conference on the oceans in Nice



Since Sunday 8 June 2025, in his capacity as Representative of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by First Lady H.E. Angéline Ndayishimiye, has been in Nice, in the south of France, where he took part in the major United Nations Conference on the Ocean. The Conference opened with a keynote speech by the French President, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, before some sixty Heads of State and Government.

The French Head of State suggested that this was a summit to mobilize the world's maritime protected areas, which are vital for humanity. He called on the international community to provide better protection for an overheated, polluted and overfished ocean.

Taking the floor in turn, Burundi's Head of State Evariste Ndayishimiye, who is also 1st Vice-Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State of the African Union, reaffirmed the African continent's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to SDG 14, which aims to harness the oceans sustainably for sound development.

Given that Africa is a continent bordered by oceans as well as several regional seas, these waters too are not spared from pollution, overfishing and the degradation of ecosystems, the President of the Republic pointed out.

He therefore calls for swift and concerted action to tackle these challenges. Coherent management from source to sea is therefore essential if we want to build an inclusive and resilient continental blue economy, emphasised President Ndayishimiye.

Given the role played by the oceans in climate regulation, H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye called for the links between oceans, climate and biodiversity to be integrated into international policies, as well as increased financial support for the most vulnerable countries.

He ended his speech by assuring that Africa is ready to assume its responsibilities, to build together an inclusive oceanic multilateralism and to transform commitments into concrete actions at the United Nations Conference on the Oceans in Nice. **(Presidency)**

Burundi prepares to chair the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission

On Monday 09 June 2025, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza, returned from Mala-

bo in Equatorial Guinea, where he had represented the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, at the 26th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Gov-



ernment of the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

On his arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi indicated that several points had been addressed

during this Summit, including the respect of deadlines concerning the beginning and end of the mandates of ECCAS bodies. He pointed out that from August 2025, Burundi would hold the presidency of ECCAS for a term of 5 years, adding that the name of the future President of the ECCAS Commission would be forwarded to the outgoing Commission through diplomatic channels.

The Vice-President, His Excellency Mr Prosper Bazombanza, also emphasized that the second important point discussed concerned the payment of member countries' arrears of dues, with the aim of completing these payments by 31 December 2025, in order to start the year 2026 with the implementation of a special contribution, known as the Community Integration Contribution, intended to support the development of all ECCAS member countries. **(RTNB)**

Gitega: Celebration of National Patriotism Day



On Monday 09 June 2025, on the occasion of National Patriotism Day, Burundians commemorated the 5th anniversary of the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza. The ceremonies took place in Gitega, at the Mausoleum of the illustrious departed.

The official speech included an extract from a speech by the late President Pierre Nkurunziza, focusing on the importance of patriotism, in which the late President urged Burundians to draw inspiration from historical figures such as Ntare Rushatsi, the founder of Burundi, and Ntare Rugamba, the architect of Burundi's national borders. His message also emphasized political and economic sovereignty, solidarity, love of work and dignity, values that have marked his mandate. These principles,

recalled during the ceremony, remain at the heart of Burundi's national identity.

The commemoration continued with the laying of wreaths on the Mausoleum. A prayer in memory of the deceased was then led by the Reverend Pastor Olivier Irakoze, who praised the place given to God in the Burundian Constitution, while calling for the commitments made to be put into practice. "After death, each person will be judged according to his or her actions", he said, encouraging the people of Burundi to work for the common good.

A number of personalities attended the ceremonies, including the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, the widows of former Presidents Pierre Nkurunziza and Melchior Ndadaye, as well as Members of Parliament, senior State officials, representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Burundi, and representatives of religious denominations **(RTNB)**.

Ceremony for the presentation of certificates to the ninth graduating class of ESCEM



Presided over by the Chief of Staff of the Burundi National Defense Force (FDNB), General Prime Niyongabo, the ceremony to award certificates to the ninth class of Higher School of Command and Staff (ESCEM), was held on Thursday 12 June 2025, in the presence of the ESCEM Commandant, Nibayubahe Nestor, as well as senior military and diplomatic officials.

ESCEM's 9th graduating class comprises thirty officers, including twenty-three Burundians and seven from partner countries in the East African Community: two Kenyans, two Ugandans, two Tanzanians and one South African. According to the organizers, this diversity illustrates ESCEM's regional ambitions as a benchmark military training centre.

In his opening speech, Nibayubahe praised the commitment and discipline of the graduates, pointing out that the aim of this training is not limited to enhancing individual skills. "It also aims at promoting the sharing of knowledge between the region's armed forces, for lasting peace and enhanced military cooperation", he said.

The Head of the FDNB, General Prime Niyongabo, expressed his satisfaction at the success of this promotion. He thanked the partner countries that had sent their officers to train at ESCEM, underlining the confidence shown in Burundi's military institutions. "This regional collaboration is an asset. It testifies to our common desire to build professional, united and peace-oriented armies", he said.

The General urged the graduates to demonstrate professionalism and to embody the values of excellence and regional unity in their future missions. "Be ambassadors of knowledge and military fraternity wherever you are called to serve".

With this ninth promotion, the Higher School of Command and Staff ESCEM, confirms its growing role in training the region's military elite. Nibayubahe pointed out that the school is part of a dynamic of academic and strategic excellence, consistent with the stability and development objectives of the East African states. (<https://www.rtnb.bi/fr/art.php?idapi=9/1/237>)

Towards strengthening the empowerment of women and youth



From 10 to 13 June 2025, the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture organized a training workshop for young people and women on managing cultural resistance. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness among women and girls of the cultural obstacles that still limit their active participation in development.

The workshop was opened by the Assistant to the Minister for Culture, Mr Hussein Ndagije. In his opening speech, he recalled that "women and young people represent the majority of the Burundian population". He stressed the importance of their full involvement in national development efforts. However, certain deeply rooted traditions and beliefs continue to relegate women to subordinate roles.

The Assistant to the Minister for Culture called for a change in mentality, encouraging a revaluation of the role of women in society. 'Today, we have capable women, experts in fields long reserved for men', he insisted.

Mr Hussein Ndagije invited the participants to identify the obstacles, share their experiences and, above all, become

relays for raising awareness in their communities. "This is not a call for rebellion, but a call for awareness and empowerment," he said.

The workshop was attended by women chiefs from the provinces of Gitega, Karusi, Bujumbura Mairie and Bururi, Muslim women, the women's forum and the National Ballet (the ministry's cultural group). (RTNB)

Kamenge Military Hospital: Fourteen children treated for heart disease



On 09 June 2025, a delegation from the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, chaired by the First Lady of Burundi and led by its coordinator Mr Aimable Sindayikengera, visited the Kamenge military hospital, where there is a center for the treatment of heart disease in children, supported by a delegation of doctors from Mobile KindeHersen Clinic, a German NGO.

During the visit, the delegation from the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation gave a donation of soap, packets of milk, porridge, sugar, lotions, children's toys and nappies to the 12 children who had just been treated for heart disease at the center, to support them during their convalescence before returning home.

The coordinator of Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, Aimable Sindayikengera, explained that the aim of the visit was to see how the health of the children treated for heart disease at the hospital since 02 June 2025 was progressing. Of the

20 children expected to be treated, 14 have already been treated, 7 of them entirely paid for by the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation. He added that this treatment campaign will end on 14 June 2025. He expressed great satisfaction, shared by the families, at seeing these children on the road to recovery. Thanks to the support of technical and financial partners, the campaign to treat heart disease in children will continue in Burundi.

He pointed out that treating a child abroad requires considerable resources that are often inaccessible to families, which compromises the child's future.

The Director General of the Kamenge Military Hospital, Brigadier General Marc Nimburanira, said that an operating theatre had already been built to ensure the continuity of surgical operations on children with heart disease, and that training for health professionals was under way. In two years' time, these professionals will gradually be able to take over, he added. All that remains to be done, he added, is to equip the operating theatre with the necessary equipment.

The Director General stressed that this center will soon provide an effective solution to heart disease in Burundi. He also urged parents to be vigilant for certain symptoms in their children: difficulty breathing at birth, a bluish complexion, difficulty suckling, unexplained weight loss as they grow, excessive sweating or a lack of courage to play with other children.

According to Brigadier General Marc Nimburanira, any parent observing such signs in their child should immediately go to hospital to check whether they are signs of heart disease. (<https://www.rtnb.bi/fr/art.php?idapi=9/1/232>).

Towards the introduction of an integrated digital system for managing internal taxes and non-tax revenues

On Thursday and Friday June 12-13, 2025, the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR), in collaboration with the World Bank, organized an experience-sharing workshop with experts

from the Liberia Revenue Authority. This West African country was not chosen at random. The reason is that, after a long period of difficulty during a devastating civil war, it has succeeded in effectively digitizing



its internal tax collection processes.

This project, which is highly innovative and new in Burundi, is sponsored by the Digital Economy Foundations Support Project in Burundi (PAFEN) from the World Bank. Its main objective is to increase access to high-speed internet, particularly for underserved communities, and to enhance the government's capacity to manage its resources in general and provide public services through digital means.

Mr Georges Bigirimana, Deputy Commissioner General of the OBR, in his opening speech at the workshop, said that during the two days of discussions between two experts from the Liberia Revenue Authority and those from the OBR's e-KORI project (internal tax digitization project), all the stages of innovation for the Liberian case were reviewed.

These stages ranged from setting up the technical team, launching the call for tenders for the supply of the platform to its operational implementation. As its expert Derek A. Hil explained, Liberia has taken a long time to implement its entire platform, over a period of six years, starting in 2019.

In the case of Burundi, the e-KORI platform project has already been operational since July 2023, with the introduction of e-declaration and e-payment. As far as the forthcoming implementation of the platform is concerned, the OBR is still in its infancy, since the call for tenders for its supply was launched on 05 May 2025, as Jean Claude Nshimirimana, head of the OBR project team, clarified it.

Derek A. Hil, one of the experts from the Liberia Revenue Authority, emphasized that this ambitious project aims at adding value to future actions, breaking with

the obsolete manual system in favor of total digitalization in the collection and management of tax revenues. A whole series of reforms are envisaged, says Téléphone Ntamatungiro, PAFEN Deputy Coordinator, encouraging the project team.

The aim is to strengthen the digital infrastructure sector and bring services closer to taxpayers, with a view to improving the efficiency and transparency of the public sector. "Public services must support digital technologies in order to promote investment", insists Ntamatungiro. "Under no circumstances can a project like this achieve its results without involving those concerned, first and fore-



most the Taxpayers, as Liberia has done", explains its national, Mr Derek A. Hil.

So, in the case of Burundi, it will be necessary to train and build the capacity of taxpayers in order to achieve the performance envisaged. The aim of such awareness-raising is to make taxpayers understand the extent to which this change meets their challenges.

For Mr. Télésphore Ntamatungiro, Deputy Coordinator of PAFEN, this exchange of experiences advocated by these Liberian experts will be followed on June 19-20, 2025, by another session with experts from Sierra Leone, another neighboring country of Liberia, which has also made significant progress in the digitalization of tax and non-tax revenue collection (OBR).

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